Migratory birds in Delhi Zoo

1141. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Delhi Zoo normally receives 300 local migratory birds during the onset of the winter every year, but this year it is likely to get more migratory birds;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) how many such birds have arrived in the Zoo, so far?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) Delhi Zoo is a well protected habitat in Delhi where migratory birds arrive on the onset of winter every year. The number of migratory birds coming to Delhi Zoo depends on the rainfall received during the year and thus on the abundance of naturally available feed. As good rainfall was received during this year a better congregation of migratory birds is expected. About 500 birds have already arrived during the current year till date.

Losses due to fire in pine forests

†1142. SHRI HARISH RAWAT:Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the losses being suffered annually as a result of fire in the pine forests State-wise;

(b) whether Government provide monetary assistance for protection against fire to the States every year where pine forests are in existence;

(c) if so, the details of assistance provided to Uttaranchal during the last five years under this head;

(d) whether his Ministry is contemplating to increase the assistance being provided under this head, keeping in view the environmental importance of the State; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(b)The assistance is provided every year subject to certain conditions like submission of utilization certificate etc.

(c) The details of the assistance provided to Uttaranchal during the last three years is as follows. (The State has come into existence in November, 2000).

(Rs. in lakhs)

Year	Financial Assistance
2000-01	56.40
2001-02	74.50
2002-03	98.07

(d) and (e) The actual expenditure during the Ninth Five Year Plan (1997—2002) for Forest Fire and Control Measures was Rs.27.69 crores for the entire country. The outlay for the Tenth Five Year Plan has been estimated at Rs. 115 crores. This implies higher assistance for various States including Uttaranchal subject to fulfilment of conditions like submission of utilisation certificates, funding of State share etc.

Poaching of waterfowl in Chilka Lake

1143. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps being taken by the State Government of Orissa to curb poaching of waterfowl in the Chilka Lake; and

(b) the details of the organizations in the Non-Governmental sector actively involved in prevention of poaching of waterfowl in Chilka Lake since 2000?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) The following steps have been taken by the Government of Orissa to curb the poaching of waterfowl in the Chilka Lake:

(i) Anti-poaching squads have been formed by drawing volunteers from the local fishermens' cooperative societies at 6 strategically located spots in the areas vulnerable to poaching of birds.